

P.S. I have consulted Conybeare and Phillips's account of the Chalk of Dover and Thanet, Mantell's account of the Geology of Sussex and S. E. of England, and Sir C. Lyell's 'Manual of Geology,' 5th edition and Supplement, 1857, on this subject, and am asking for later information.

[Instead of replying at large to the above queries, the EDITOR refers to the indicated articles in the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, and will be glad to receive replies from Correspondents.]

BELGIAN BONE-CAVES.

*To the Editor of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE.*

SIR,—In a recent number of the 'Times' there is an extract from 'Galignani's Messenger,' stating that, in a paper addressed to the Belgian Academy of Sciences, M. Van Beneden gives an account of some *human* and animal remains discovered by him in a grotto in the Valley of the Lesse. The human bones were found together with those of bears, oxen, horses, *reindeer*, beavers, several beasts of prey, birds, fish, &c.

You would greatly oblige many of your readers if you would give them some account of this grotto, and the fossil remains found in it, and state *your* theory with respect to them. Your obedient servant,

THOMAS DAWSON.

LONDON: *January 18, 1865.*

*Note.*—Brief notices by M. Van Beneden of this and neighbouring bone-caves are given in the 'Reader' of Jan. 7th and Feb. 11th. The points of special interest appear to be:—1. The discovery of another district, besides that of Central and Southern France, where the *Reindeer* (now confined to Arctic regions) existed with Man in prehistoric times; 2. The finding of well-preserved bones (especially skulls, indicating possibly two races) of the Men of that period; 3. The probability of water having flooded the cave since its contents were deposited therein; 4. The height of the cave above the Lesse (some 40 yards) in the cliffs of Mountain-limestone, without any other entrance than in front.

If the river flooded the cave, a great change of level must have been brought about in the valley since Man first inhabited it; but without further details, or personal inspection, it is impossible to form a definite opinion as to the mode of occupation of these caves, and of the imbedding of the bones, &c. Probably, as in the South of France and elsewhere, the old people lived by the chase, keeping their food and cooking it in the caves, and leaving bones, shells, tools, and weapons, broken pottery, &c., mixed up with the rubbish and dirt: accident, neglect, and massacre may have left human bones in the same refuse-heaps. Such caves were entered by rough-cut steps, and natural ledges, with holes for wooden pegs, and perhaps ropes of hide or sinew were used: rain and frost, however, have removed such surface-marks. These Belgian caves yield *pottery*, which is unknown as yet in the Caves of Dordogne.—EDIT. G. M.

*To the Editor of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE.*

SIR,—In Greenough's Geological Map of England and Wales, a 'Burning Well' near Broseley is noted. Can you tell me if it still exists, or something of its history?—SALOP.

DISAPPEARANCE OF AN ISLAND.—The Indian papers report that one of the Maldivé Islands, about 100 miles from Cannanore, on the Malabar coast, has suddenly disappeared. Such a phenomenon is not of unusual occurrence, it is said, several islands having been seen by the crews of vessels to sink. The Rajah of Cannanore, it appears, is a loser to the extent of three lakhs of rupees by this casualty. Some fishermen living on the island went out in the morning; on their return in the evening they found that their homes were gone. Are these islands altogether formed of Coral? and do they fall away by being undermined by the sea?—ENQUIRER.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

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At the Annual Meeting of the GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, on February 17, W. J. Hamilton, Esq., President, in the chair, the Secretary read the Reports of the Council, of the Museum and Library Committee, and of the Auditors.

The remarkable increase in the numbers of the Society and the condition of the Society's finances were stated to be very satisfactory. The President announced the award of the Wollaston Gold Medal to Thomas Davidson, F.R.S., &c., for the highly important services he has rendered through many years to the Science of Geology by his critical and philosophical works on Fossil Brachiopoda; and, in handing the medal to that distinguished Palæontologist, he commented on the valuable contributions to science furnished by that gentleman to the volumes of the Palæontographical Society, remarking that their value was much enhanced in consequence of the illustrations having been drawn by the author himself. Mr. Davidson, on receiving the medal, requested the President to convey his sincere thanks to the Council for the great honour they had done him by this award, which was the more welcome as it came to him from the hands of one who is at the same time the President of both the Geological and the Palæontographical Societies. The President then stated that the balance of the proceeds of the Wollaston Donation-fund had been awarded to J. W. Salter, Esq., F.G.S., &c., in recognition of his valuable services in the elucidation of Palæozoic fossils, and to assist him in completing his Monograph on British Trilobites, and placed it, together with a diploma to that effect, in the hands of the eminent recipient. Mr. Salter briefly thanked the Society for this testimony of their approbation.

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION for the Encouragement of Agriculture, Arts, Science, Manufactures, and Commerce, lately established, will have for the second of its five Departments